

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter – Auditorium

101 8th Street, Oakland, California

February 6, 2013

Members Present:

Susan Adams, Supervisor, County of Marin
Andy Barnes, Policy Chair, Urban Land Institute
Desley Brooks, Councilmember, City of Oakland
Ronit Bryant, Councilmember, City of Mountain View
Paul Campos, Sr. Vice President of Government Affairs, BIA Bay Area
Dave Cortese, Supervisor, County of Santa Clara / RPC Chair
Linda Craig, Bay Area League of Women Voters
Diane Dillon, Supervisor, County of Napa
Pat Eklund, Mayor, City of Novato
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Erin Hanningan, Supervisor, County of Solano
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club
Michael Lane, Policy Directory, Non-Profit Housing Assn. of Northern California
Kristina Lawson, Councilmember, City of Walnut Creek
Mark Luce, Supervisor, County of Napa, ABAG President
Karen Mitchoff, Supervisor, County of Contra Costa
Julie Pierce, Mayor, City of Clayton, ABAG Vice President
Laurel Prevetti, BAPDA
Harry Price, Mayor, City of Fairfield
Mark Ross, Vice Mayor, City of Martinez
Tim Sbranti, Mayor, City of Dublin
Pixie Hayward Schickele, California Teachers Association
Carol Severin, EBRPD Board of Directors
Jim Spering, Supervisor, Solano County
Egon Terplan, Regional Planning Director, SPUR
Beth Walukas, Alameda County Transportation Commission

Members Absent:

Shiloh Ballard, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Anu Natarajan, Councilmember, City of Fremont
Allen Fernandez Smith, President & CEO, Urban Habitat

Staff Present:

Ezra Rapport, ABAG Executive Director
Miriam Chion, ABAG Planning & Research Director
Laura Thompson, ABAG Bay Trail Project Manager
Galli Basson, ABAG San Francisco Water Trail Planner
Mark Shorett, ABAG Regional Planner

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Dayle Farina, ABAG Administrative Specialist

1. Call to Order/Introductions

ABAG President Mark Luce called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.

President Luce called for the Pledge of Allegiance

President Luce introduced 4 new committee members:

Desley Brooks, Councilmember, City of Oakland

Erin Hanningan, Supervisor, County of Solano

Kristina Lawson, Councilmember, City of Walnut Creek

Tim Sbranti, Mayor, City of Dublin

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Committee Member Haggerty and seconded to approve the minutes from December 5, 2012

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Oral Reports/Comments

A. Committee Members

B. Staff

Miriam Chion, ABAG Planning & Research Director, brought the tentative schedule of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) public outreach meetings, EIR, and meetings with the elected officials to the attention of the Committee Members.

Ms. Chion reported on the status of the HUD grant and related activities.

Committee Member Campos asked if we have a comment closure date for the EIR.

Ms. Chion responded that the date is available but that she does not have the specifics. They will be sent to the committee members.

Committee Member Adams asked for the format of the Open House/Public Hearings and how much time will be allocated for each portion.

Ms. Chion explained how these meetings will be formatted and the differences between the components of these events. She added that the Open House will be 2 hours and the Public Hearings depend on the attendance at each meeting.

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Committee Member Adams made several comments, asked a few other questions, which were readily answered, and asked that a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) be available at the open house portion of the event.

Committee Member Spering asked if staff will meet with the elected official leaders prior to the events. Mr. Spering added that he does not agree with the format and would like it to be different in his county.

Ms. Chion responded that she will make sure a meeting is scheduled with Supervisor Spering prior to the meeting in Solano County.

Chair Cortese assumed the chair at 1:15.

5. INFORMATION: Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Economic Development Policy Background Paper

Mark Shorett, ABAG Regional Planner, presented information and sought input on the region's economic development trends and strategies.

Mike Ferreira, Sierra Club commented about Rural Investment Areas. Mr. Ferreira added that there might be a mapping error about the Midcoast PDA and asked what the purple dot on the map reflects.

Ms. Chion responded that it reflects the jobs related to cafes, restaurants and home-based offices. Detailed numbers will be posted later.

Committee Member Haggerty asked who authored this report.

Ms. Chion responded that the report is informed by work completed by the Bay Area Council, City of San Jose, SPUR, for example. There are many reports developed over the past 5 years which have contributed to the content in this report.

Mr. Haggerty asked if the business community will be brought into this effort.

Ms. Chion responded that there is another effort being led by the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) which will convene the business organizations. If the Committee would like, we can engage the Bay Area Council and other business organizations to present their recent report on the proposal being considered for a future regional economic strategy.

Committee Member Haggerty added that he would also like to have them collaborate with this Committee.

Committee Member Adams asked for information on the progress of regional jobs numbers.

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Ms. Chion commented that numbers are slightly lower than when the effort first began.

Ms. Adams asked if the model codes (on page 18) were representing a more urban model. She also asked if there would be models representing urban, suburban and rural areas. She commented that the “one-size-fits-all” model may raise some controversy.

Mr. Shorett responded that he neglected to add the models for other place types into the presentation and that they will be addressed in the report.

Committee Member Adams added that, along with low income jobs and housing, this report should address how to increase wages in the region to enable workers to afford housing in the region. Ms. Adams asked how this fits into the equation to release the local governments from some of the burden of finding all of the subsidies for low income housing in their communities.

Ms. Chion responded that some of the resources will be provided through the Regional Prosperity Plan, which is the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant effort.

Ms. Adams mentioned that it appears we are growing jobs in the low income area but not growing jobs in the other sectors at the same rate.

Ms. Chion clarified that the chart is actually reflecting the total number of workers in each category rather than the growth. There is the expectation for an increase in the low wage areas of one or two percent.

Committee Member Prevetti referred to the Industrial Employment chart on page 12. She commented that, while growth in the industrial areas is not expected in the PDAs, there is a large manufacturing industry in the Silicon Valley. Ms. Prevetti recommends remaining flexible in the use of light and heavy industrial lands. Ms. Prevetti added that building codes are regulated by the state. Ms. Prevetti commented that it is unclear to her if this is a stand-alone analysis or part of the SCS.

Ms. Chion responded that the key points of this effort will be reflected in the Plan Bay Area document but that the implementation requires more work which will be continued through the RPC.

Committee Member Campos commented that this effort should be directly coordinated to the efforts with the JPC. Mr. Campos asked for clarification on the purpose of this report.

Ezra Rapport, ABAG Executive Director, responded that this is ABAG’s contribution for the spatial distribution work previously completed, which is reflected in the forecast and uses the data for the larger economic development effort.

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Committee Member Terplan encouraged stating more explicit information related to the spatial distribution of jobs. Mr. Terplan also recommended looking at the benefits of having an emphasis on employment at transit stations as well as housing. Mr. Terplan also stated his opinion on the specific model types in the paper.

Mr. Rapport responded to Mr. Terplan's comments on the model.

Committee Member Eklund recommended that reference be made to the economic development tools which are available for the cities. Ms. Eklund also recommended getting feedback from businesses and providing input on what businesses can do to assist with economic development.

Committee Member Ross commented that it is important to encourage service and commercial industry in the light industrial space in local communities. This would ultimately decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Mr. Ross also encouraged promoting telecommuting to contribute to the VMT decrease.

Committee Member Sbranti commented that the available space near transit should be reflected in the report for encouraging employment near transit stations and reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions.

Committee Member Spering recommended putting affordable housing where the jobs are going to be. He referred to the transit corridors and pointed out that growth is near transit, if you consider transit corridors along with transit stations. Mr. Spering added that, in order maintain the diversity in this region, we need to embrace and invest in the industries in the rural counties (i.e. open space, agriculture and wine industry). Affordable housing needs to be placed where these jobs are as well.

Committee Member Bryant & Committee Member Pierce both commented that we need to focus more on "the last mile" and how people get between the transit station and their home.

Committee Member Pierce commented that we should encourage satellite offices and more industry in outlying areas.

Chair Cortese asked that staff send a summary of this item to Committee Members in the next 2 weeks.

6. ACTION: San Francisco Water Trail

Laura Thompson, ABAG Bay Trail Project Manager and Ann Buell, Project Manager with the California Coastal Conservancy, provided background information about the agenda item. Galli Basson, ABAG Water Trail Planner, presented information about

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail, a network of launching and landing sites around the San Francisco Bay for non-motorized small boat users.

Committee Member Haggerty was disappointed that the map does not include the inner-delta and asked how to get it included as part of the water trail.

Ms. Thompson responded that the original vision of the trail was around the Bay. Partially because BCDC was the lead agency on the Water Trail Project, most of the sites designated are areas within their jurisdiction.

Ms. Buell added that sites must be accessible to the public. Outreach includes getting the word out to property owners within the region.

It was moved by Committee Member Adams and seconded by Committee Member Haggerty to accept this program, move it to the Executive Board with an endorsement with an amendment of the exploration of the inner-connection with the “so called” Delta (Water) Trail continue to be explored.

The motion passed.

Committee Member Adams asked if there are designated functioning sites. She also asked if they are viewable on the website. Ms. Adams also asked how much money is available for the grant program.

Ms. Basson responded that there are currently three functioning sites which are designated by the blue dots on the map and are viewable on the Water Trail website. There is currently \$500,000 available through the grant program. A second round is anticipated for the same amount in 2014.

Ms. Adams followed up by asking if any of the grant money is available for purchasing opportunity areas.

Ms. Basson answered that the funds will be available only for capital improvement projects.

Committee Member Adams also asked if State Parks are being incorporated into the plan and, if so, will they be eligible for grant money.

Ms. Basson responded that non-profit organizations are eligible if they meet the criteria. She added that staff is in talks with the County of Marin related to all of the sites which they own and/or manage.

Committee Member Haggerty asked that the Committee Members be emailed the presentation given today.

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Committee Member Eklund asked for a model ordinance or resolution which is tailored to cities to be sent to Committee Members as well.

ADJOURN:

Chair Cortese adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on April 3, 2012

Submitted by:

Dayle Farina

Administrative Specialist

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